

TRADE UNION STATISTICS : AUSTRALIA  
DECEMBER 1971

Reference No. 6.24

The figures contained in this bulletin have been obtained from the annual collection of membership of trade unions, etc. as at 31 December 1971. For comparison, figures for some earlier years are also shown. More detailed statistics for earlier years and a description of these series appear in the Labour Report and the Official Year Book.

2. For the purpose of these statistics a trade union is defined as an organisation consisting predominantly of employees and whose principal activities include the negotiation of rates of pay and conditions of employment for its members.

3. Table 1 of this bulletin shows the number of unions and membership in each State and Territory; Tables 2 and 3 figures for industry groups; Tables 4 and 5 the proportion of total wage and salary earners; Table 6 a classification according to the number of members; and Table 7 interstate unions classified by the area of operation. On page 4 details are shown of organisations registered under the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act. The classification according to the number of members shown in Table 6 is an expansion of that shown in previous publications.

4. In Tables 1 and 3, under the heading "Number of Separate Unions", a union with members in a State or Territory is counted as one union within that State or Territory. The figures do not add to the Australian total because a union represented in more than one State or Territory is included in the figures for each State or Territory in which it is represented, but is counted only once in the Australian total.

5. Where membership figures have been rounded in this bulletin, any discrepancies between totals and sums of components are due to rounding.

TABLE 1. - TRADE UNIONS : NUMBER AND MEMBERSHIP, STATES

State or Territory	Number of separate unions		Number of members ( '000 )					
	Dec. 1970	Dec. 1971	December 1970			December 1971		
			Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
New South Wales	208	204	688.9	223.4	912.3	720.3	251.3	971.6
Victoria	156	157	437.9	153.6	591.5	450.9	166.8	617.7
Queensland	139	140	247.5	82.6	330.2	251.4	86.2	337.6
South Australia	137	139	163.2	39.4	202.7	172.1	43.8	215.9
Western Australia	155	154	127.0	41.6	168.6	133.5	44.8	178.3
Tasmania	114	111	57.4	16.6	73.9	58.2	17.0	75.2
Northern Territory (b)	45	51	5.7	0.9	6.6	6.7	1.5	8.1
Australian Capital Territory (b)	82	82	23.0	5.9	28.8	25.2	7.0	32.2
<u>Australia</u>	(a)305	(a)303	1,750.6	564.1	2,314.6	1,818.2	618.3	2,436.6

(a) Without interstate duplication. See paragraph 4 above. (b) Some unions in the Territories are affiliated with State organisations and their membership is reported under the heading of that State. More accurate reporting of membership by location over the years is reflected in the annual figures for the Territories and this affects their comparability over time.

TABLE 2. - TRADE UNIONS : INDUSTRY GROUPS (a), AUSTRALIA

Industry group (a)	Number of separate unions		Number of members ('000)	
	December 1970	December 1971	December 1970	December 1971
Agriculture, grazing, etc.	3	3	55.4	54.8
Mining and quarrying	12	12	35.3	37.0
Manufacturing -				
Engineering, metals, vehicles, etc.	9	9	389.3	405.0
Textiles, clothing and footwear	5	5	101.7	96.7
Food, drink and tobacco	27	26	143.1	153.0
Sawmilling, furniture, etc.	6	6	32.1	32.6
Paper, printing, etc.	5	5	61.7	62.3
Other manufacturing	21	21	91.8	91.3
Total manufacturing	73	72	819.6	840.8
Building and construction	20	20	135.1	143.9
Railway and tramway services	21	21	122.2	121.8
Road and air transport	13	13	84.1	91.4
Shipping and stevedoring	12	12	31.1	31.8
Banking, insurance and clerical	13	13	153.2	173.7
Wholesale and retail trade	11	12	86.7	116.6
Public authority (n.e.i.), etc. (b)	70	68	475.6	488.5
Amusement, hotels, personal service, etc.	21	20	64.3	66.6
Other industries (c)	36	37	252.0	269.6
Total	305	303	2,314.6	2,436.6

(a) This table does not supply a precise classification of trade unions and their members by industry. This is because in cases where the members of a union are employed in a number of industries they have been classified to the predominant industry for the union concerned. Comparability between years of membership figures for an industry group may be affected by amalgamation of trade unions classified to different industry groups. (b) Includes communication and municipal, etc. (c) Includes community and business services.

TABLE 3. - TRADE UNIONS : INDUSTRY GROUPS (a), STATES, DECEMBER 1971

State	Manufacturing	Building and construction	Transport	Public authority (n.e.i.), etc. (b)	Other (c)	All groups
Number of separate unions						
New South Wales	48	12	32	50	62	204
Victoria	46	11	21	38	41	157
Queensland	28	8	25	38	41	140
South Australia	40	8	20	37	34	139
Western Australia	31	7	23	43	50	154
Tasmania	33	5	15	28	30	111
Australia (d)	72	20	46	68	97	303
Number of members ('000)						
New South Wales	377.5	54.7	103.8	178.6	257.1	971.6
Victoria	234.1	36.7	55.2	112.3	179.4	617.7
Queensland	81.4	20.2	36.9	68.1	130.9	337.6
South Australia	76.2	12.2	20.9	53.5	53.0	215.9
Western Australia	40.9	12.9	19.0	41.6	63.9	178.3
Tasmania	24.9	3.2	6.7	19.4	20.9	75.2
Australia (e)	840.8	143.9	245.0	488.5	718.3	2,436.6

(a) See footnote (a) to Table 2. (b) See footnote (b) to Table 2. (c) Includes agriculture, etc; mining and quarrying; banking, insurance and clerical; wholesale and retail trade; amusement, hotels, personal service, etc; and community and business services. (d) Without interstate duplication. See paragraph 4, page 1. (e) Includes members in the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory.

Proportion of total wage and salary earners. Tables 4 and 5 below show the approximate percentages of wage and salary earners in employment who were members of trade unions. The estimates of total wage and salary earners have been derived by adding figures for employees in rural industries and in private domestic service recorded at the 1966 Population Census to the estimates of employees in all other industries as at the end of each year. The percentages shown in these tables are not directly comparable with those shown in Labour Report No. 53 and earlier issues of the Labour Report, because the present percentages are based on a revised series of employment estimates available only from June 1966. The change between the series is more significant for female employees as the current employment estimates include a considerable number of part-time employees who had previously been excluded.

**TABLE 4. - TRADE UNIONS**  
**PROPORTION OF TOTAL WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS (a)**

**DECEMBER 1971**

State	Number of members ('000)			Proportion of total wage and salary earners (a) (per cent)		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
New South Wales and A.C.T.	745.4	258.4	1,003.8	63	42	56
Victoria	450.9	166.8	617.7	54	37	48
Queensland	251.4	86.2	337.6	59	45	55
South Australia	172.1	43.8	215.9	60	31	51
Western Australia	133.5	44.8	178.3	55	37	49
Tasmania	58.2	17.0	75.2	62	41	55
Northern Territory	6.7	1.5	8.1	28	15	25
<u>Australia</u>	1,818.2	618.3	2,436.6	59	39	52

(a) Percentages not comparable with those published in Labour Report No. 53 and earlier issues of the Labour Report. See text above.

**TABLE 5. - TRADE UNIONS**  
**PROPORTION OF TOTAL WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS, AUSTRALIA (a)**

End of December -	Number of members ('000)			Proportion of total wage and salary earners (a) (per cent)		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
1966	1,657.5	466.0	2,123.5	60	37	53
1967	1,663.7	487.6	2,151.3	59	37	52
1968	1,691.1	499.5	2,190.7	59	36	51
1969	1,717.5	521.6	2,239.1	58	36	50
1970	1,750.6	564.1	2,314.6	57	36	50
1971	1,818.2	618.3	2,436.6	59	39	52

(a) Percentages not comparable with those published in Labour Report No. 53 and earlier issues of the Labour Report. See text above.

TABLE 6. - TRADE UNIONS - CLASSIFICATION ACCORDING TO NUMBER OF MEMBERS, AUSTRALIA

Number of members	Number of separate unions				Number of members ('000)			
	Dec. 1968	Dec. 1969	Dec. 1970	Dec. 1971	Dec. 1968	Dec. 1969	Dec. 1970	Dec. 1971
Under 100	46	43	41	39	2.4	2.2	2.2	2.0
100 and under 250	38	33	39	40	6.3	5.2	6.4	6.9
250 " " 500	42	38	39	33	15.0	13.7	14.4	12.1
500 " " 1,000	41	36	33	38	27.3	23.1	22.3	26.9
1,000 " " 2,000	45	52	46	42	61.3	65.1	64.8	60.9
2,000 " " 5,000	41	40	40	45	135.8	135.8	136.7	149.8
5,000 " " 10,000	14	15	13	12	103.5	108.6	88.4	85.8
10,000 " " 20,000	21	19	21	17	304.4	268.4	304.9	238.6
20,000 " " 30,000	7	8	7	11	168.8	188.5	158.1	255.7
30,000 " " 40,000	6	7	7	7	211.6	250.2	247.5	254.6
40,000 " " 50,000	6	5	5	5	263.5	214.5	222.1	217.6
50,000 " " 80,000	12	10	10	7	890.7	646.4	645.4	468.6
80,000 and over	3	4	7		317.5	401.5	657.0	
<b>Total</b>	319	309	305	303	2,190.7	2,239.1	2,314.6	2,436.6

TABLE 7. - INTERSTATE OR FEDERATED TRADE UNIONS, AUSTRALIA

End of December -	Unions operating in (a) -					Total
	2 States	3 States	4 States	5 States	6 States	
Number of unions						
1970	11	7	17	27	85	147
1971	12	6	16	32	81	147
Number of members ('000)						
1970	21.8	23.9	97.1	382.6	1,595.4	2,120.8
1971	24.3	21.0	104.2	425.9	1,660.5	2,235.9

(a) Certain unions have, in addition to branches in the States, branches in the Northern Territory and in the Australian Capital Territory.

#### ORGANISATIONS REGISTERED UNDER THE COMMONWEALTH CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION ACT

At the end of 1971 the number of employers' organisations registered under provisions of the Act was 77 (75). The number of unions registered at the end of 1971 was 154 (153), with membership of 1,984,179 (1,939,860), representing 81 (84) per cent of total membership of all trade unions in Australia. Comparable figures for 1970 are shown in brackets.

J. P. O'NEILL  
COMMONWEALTH STATISTICIAN

COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS

CANBERRA, A.C.T. 2600

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NOTE. Inquiries concerning these statistics may be made in Canberra by telephoning 63 9111 extension 2055 or, in each State capital, by telephoning the office of the Bureau of Census and Statistics.